

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rockwood
other names/site number VDHR file no. 077-0045

2. Location

street & number 5189 Rockwood Drive N/A not for publication
city or town Dublin X vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Pulaski code 155 zip code 24084

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

____ entered in the National Register.	_____
____ See continuation sheet.	_____
____ determined eligible for the National Register.	_____
____ See continuation sheet.	_____
____ determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____
____ removed from the National Register.	_____
____ other (explain): _____	_____

Rockwood
Name of Property

Pulaski Co., Va.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	4	buildings
1	0	sites
5	0	structures
0	0	objects
17	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
AGRICULTURE	animal facility
AGRICULTURE	processing
AGRICULTURE	ag outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
AGRICULTURE	animal facility
AGRICULTURE	processing
AGRICULTURE	outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
	Concrete
roof	Metal
other	Iron
	Wood
	Glass
	Terra Cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Rockwood
Name of Property

Pulaski Co., Va.
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our for religious history.
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and within distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Bell, Francis, Sr.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance the past fifty years.

Period of Significance

1874-1955

Significant Dates

1874-75

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

(see continuation sheet)

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 68 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 17	525860	4107420	3 17	526890	4107150
2 17	526710	4107720	4 17	526220	4107000

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>	date	<u>January 12, 2005</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u>Rockwood Holdings LLC (contact: Frank O. Drummond III)</u>		
street & number	<u>5189 Rockwood Dr.</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 674-1328</u>
city or town	<u>Dublin</u> state <u>Virginia</u>	zip code	<u>24084</u>

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Rockwood
Pulaski Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Rockwood is located in central Pulaski County, Virginia, on the west side of US Highway 100 about one mile northwest of the town center of Dublin. The sixty-eight-acre nominated area encompasses the Rockwood house and domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Rockwood is a large two-story Greek Revival residence built in 1874-75. The house is constructed of brick in a modified American bond with header/stretcher courses every five stretcher courses. Other features include a metal-sheathed hip roof with a deck, interior brick chimneys, two-story semi-octagonal bay windows on the west and south sides, two-over-two windows with ornamental metal lintels, and a Classical Revival wraparound porch added in the 1910s. The interior has an unusual plan with a front entry hall that connects to a central sky-lit stair hall. Interior features include elaborate plaster cornices and ceiling medallions, a curved stair, and relatively simple pilaster/frieze mantels. Near the house stands a planked log smokehouse that was probably built at the same time as the house, a garage, and other smaller buildings. Most of the farm buildings are located in a complex to the west of the house. The largest of these is a long gambrel-roofed dairy barn built in three phases. The nominated area is agricultural in character, predominately pasture with some wooded area, and it lies principally between 2,100 and 2,200 feet in elevation.

Inventory

1. Rockwood. 1874-75; 1910s. Contributing building.
2. Smokehouse. 1870s. Contributing building.
3. Garage. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing building.
4. Ice house site. 1870s? Contributing site
5. Chicken house. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing building.
6. Chicken house. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing building.
7. Pump house. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing structure.
8. Gate pillars. Late 19th or early 20th c. Contributing structure.
9. Lamb barn. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing building.
10. Spring house. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing structure.
11. Dairy barn. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing building.
12. Calf barn. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing building.
13. Mill house. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.

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Description (continued)

- 14. Pump house. Ca. 1950. Contributing structure.
- 15. Pump house. 2nd quarter 20th c. Contributing structure.
- 16. Bull barn. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.
- 17. Corn Crib and Wagon Shed. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.
- NC 18. Wood shed. 2nd half 20th c. Noncontributing building.
- NC 19. Shop. Ca. 1960; ca. 1970. Noncontributing building.
- NC 20. Cow shed. Ca. 1970. Noncontributing building.
- NC 21. Machinery shed. 2nd half 20th c. Noncontributing building.

House Exterior

The dominant feature of the east-facing front of the house is the Classical Revival porch added in the 1910s. The center section rises a full two stories on monumental Ionic columns. The column shafts are constructed of wood staves held together with metal bands, and they have non-wood capitals and bases that may both be molded terra cotta. The center section has a second-tier balcony with square balusters. One-story porches extend on both sides, the north porch wrapping around to the north elevation. These have smooth wood-shaft Ionic columns with terra-cotta capitals, beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings, brick foundation piers, and lattice underpinning. Concrete steps with recessed panels on the faces of the risers correspond to front and north entries.

An original one-story porch survives on the south side of the house near the front corner. The porch stands on chamfered posts with molded caps, neckings, and bases, and it has a bracketed cornice and a roof balustrade with sawn vasiform balusters. (A similar balustrade encloses the deck at the top of the hip roof.) A similar porch once sheltered the front entry, as shown in a historic photograph and by the ghost outlines of pilasters that once flanked the entry and that were nearly identical to the south porch posts. The front and north entries, which are contained in facade projections, have double-leaf four and four panel doors, four-light transoms, and paneled reveals.

To each side of the front entry are two windows with sash and paneled aprons that raise into plenums in the wall above, creating door-like openings. The windows are otherwise typical of the house's windows. They are surmounted by boldly projecting pressed metal lintels. At the ends of the lintels are pressed metal brackets with faceted bosses on their faces. On top of the lintels are cast iron crestings with a design of tendrils and florets. The windows have conventional louvered wood shutters that

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Description (continued)

extend almost to the top. At the very top are unusual louvered awning shutters.

Wrapping around the northwest (rear) corner of the house is a concrete basement window well that may replace (or consolidate) a limestone retaining wall for an original well. Concrete in this well near the rear bay window is inscribed with the date August 23, 1911, and the name "Samuel Hay Bell (VI?)" (Samuel Hays Bell IV, who was ten years old at the time, probably made the inscription). Near the window well is a concrete cistern cap with a cast iron lid manufactured by the Cincinnati Pump Co. and "Boss" bucket-chain pump. Near the cistern is a small concrete box that may have been a charcoal-filled filter. At the two outer corners of the south bay window are concrete buttresses, and at the base of the bay window is a small concrete box with a tin lid (an ash house?).

To the west side of the south bay window is a late twentieth century frame sunroom with T-1-11 siding, an asphalt-shingle shed roof, and slanted plexiglass windows. The sunroom stands on an original balcony supported from beneath by five large cast iron brackets of decorative tendril form. The balcony was reinforced by concrete pillars and it is reached by a concrete stair with a vertical board underpinning and modern metal railing (the concrete work appears to date to the early twentieth century).

On the penciled mortar joints to each side of the front entry and elsewhere on the exterior are numerous dates and names written in pencil. Most of the dates are from the 1890s and later. On the joist of the south porch nearest the house wall is the inscription "Painted May 1915" (the "9" is backwards) in white paint. Painted on the wall below, also in white, is a sinuous form that may represent a snake chasing a rodent.

House Interior

Typical interior features include plaster walls and ceilings, wood floors, molded baseboards, four-panel doors, and two-light transoms over most first-floor doors. The front entry opens into a hall with the two-tone floor boards arranged in a pinwheel pattern with a star design at the hub. The darker floor boards are walnut and the lighter ones may be oak. (The same materials are used to create a striped effect on the stair hall and dining room floors.) Above is a large plaster ceiling medallion with swirled acanthus leaves and a foliated center button. The east end of the hall is framed by a wide segmental-arch opening. The ceiling is bordered by a complex plaster cove molding adorned with alternating

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Description (continued)

molded plaster ornaments. One ornament features the head and neck of a classical woman contained in a cartouche-like foliated frame. The woman has flowing tresses and an unusual coiffure on the top of her head that may in fact be a representation of a Phrygian cap. The other ornament has a design of apples, grapes, grape leaves, and other foliage. Other rooms with this cornice are the room on the north side of the entry hall, the stair hall, and dining room.

The door on the north side of the entry hall leads into the north parlor. This room has a ceiling medallion almost identical to the one in the entry hall but with more space between the leaves. The room also has a third cornice ornament that is an abbreviated form of the fruit ornament. It is used at the outer corners of the cornice where it wraps around the chimney breast and elsewhere in the house where a less conspicuous ornament is needed. The mantel has a peaked frieze with a center keyblock and flanking brackets, pilasters with beveled corners, and a shaped shelf. The floor is plain—presumably it was intended to be carpeted. The four-panel door to the entry hall has a porcelain knob and, under it, a decorative porcelain keyhole cover. (These knobs and keyhole covers are common throughout the house.) The room has curtain valences of gilded or bronzed metal (possibly tin) with a relief pattern of flowers, ivy, arabesques, and a center cartouche. The valences, which have been temporarily removed, were attached to the tops of the windows with cut nails and therefore may be original to the room.

The south parlor is less ornate than its counterpart on the north side of the entry hall. It has a Greek Revival mantel with chamfered pilasters and frieze that differs from others in the house and was likely reused from another house. To the left of the mantel is a built-in press with a paneled apron. This room was referred to as the sitting room in a 1975 newspaper article, which noted that the room was painted seafoam green with a white ceiling. The door at the west end of the entry hall opens into the stair hall, which occupies the center of the house. A curved stair ascends on the east and south walls of the space. The stair has a walnut handrail, simple tread brackets, turned and faceted balusters (which may be stained oak), and, at its foot on the first floor, an octagonal faceted walnut newel. A round-arch niche occupies the curved wall along which the stair rises.

Pocket doors, surmounted by a four-light transom, open from the west side of the stair hall into the dining room. The dining room is a long room that extends into the bay window on the west elevation of the house. Angled closets occupy the room's northeast and southeast corners to mirror the semi-octagonal geometry of the west end of the room. In addition to the ornate cornice, the room features a

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ceiling medallion like that in the entry hall (with closely swirled acanthus leaves) within a quatrefoil molded border. The fireplace has a Greek Revival mantel with narrow chamfered pilasters and a plain frieze ornamented by a keyblock with a faceted face. The closet interiors have original shelves and original paint colors such as mustard baseboards and light gray walls.

From the north side of the central stair hall leads a narrow secondary stair hall that connects to the north entry. This hall and the room off of it in the northwest corner of the house preserve grained and stained woodwork. The doors and stair string are grained brown and yellow in imitation of oak grain, and the simple tread brackets on the stair are stained dark brown in imitation of walnut. The stair has rectangular balusters and a rounded handrail that descends in a graceful curve at the base to an octagonal pedestal (the treatment is in lieu of a newel). The northwest room has a mantel similar to that in the dining room, stained walnut color, and walnut-stained door and window trim and a beveled baseboard. The walnut-stained trim and oak-grained doors of the secondary stair hall and northwest room were formerly the treatment in the entry hall and dining room, as shown in photographs from the 1940s. This scheme may not be original, however. In places where the oak graining has worn away, as on the panels of the door to the northwest room, there appears to be earlier graining or staining of a redder color. The moldings that define the panels may have been painted or stained brown, and a similar color may have been used on the door trim.

A door on the south side of the dining room formerly led to a butler's pantry or storage closet with shelves and mustard-colored baseboards. (This small room was removed in the 2004 rehabilitation.) Another door leads through a short passage to the kitchen. The kitchen was remodeled several times over the course of the twentieth century, but vestiges of early (probably nineteenth century) green and gray paint survive. The modern sunroom off of the kitchen has a tile floor and planter box. The room that extends into the south bay window has a mantel like that in the dining room.

Typical features on the second floor include four-panel doors with porcelain and decorative metal knobs (but no transoms), plain floor boards, and beveled baseboards. Mantels typically have peaked and beveled friezes, beveled pilasters, and shaped shelves. Some rooms preserve traces of early paint colors and (on at least one door) graining. The room in the south bay window, for example, appears to have been painted a light yellow green almost to the ceiling and then pearl gray on the ceiling and as a border at the top of the walls (this coloration may have been created by former wallpaper and border papers). There are segmental archways with chamfered corners where short peripheral passageways

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open off of the central stair hall. The secondary stair ascends to the unfinished attic. A brick perimeter wall rises to about three feet, above which are common rafters braced at their lower ends. In the center is the light well at the top of the central stair hall. A six-over-six window provides light from the well to the attic, and a beaded batten door opens from the attic onto a narrow walkway around the well. The walkway has a railing with rectangular balusters and a beveled and beaded handrail. The gabled metal-framed skylight at the top of the well is apparently a twentieth century replacement. Originally the light well had operable windows at the top that aided in ventilating the house.

The basement approximately mirrors the plan of the first floor. Plastered brick walls and plaster-and-lath ceilings are common. The rooms have either concrete or earth floors, and they are entered through beaded batten doors with pottery or porcelain knobs and molded surrounds. There are several fireplaces without mantels but with stove flue holes above the fireplace openings. The stairs from the center stair hall descend into a rounded enclosure formed by vertical tongue-and-groove boards. The enclosure rests on log joists, part of a wood floor that once extended beyond, and the inner surface (facing the stairs) was wallpapered with newspaper and whitewashed.

The basement room under the west bay window is traditionally identified as the cook's room. The trim in this room formerly had early gray paint (other trim throughout the basement was unpainted). Above the windows at the west end of the cook's room are the ends of a number of pipes that may have been associated with a gas light system or heating system. The northeast basement room was used for storing apples and has a brick-paved floor and evidence of former wooden bins. Graffiti written in pencil appears throughout the basement but are especially numerous on the walls of the passage that leads to the west basement entry. Here there is ciphering, dates (1891, 1897, 1936), scraps of doggerel ("When this you see remember me . . ."), and sketches such as the head of an old man and locomotives with smokestack funnels and cow-catchers. Where the ceiling structure is visible it is seen to have circular-sawn joists with original cross bridging. Other basement features include a tin-lined wooden bath tub and a cabinet with double-leaf two-and-two-panel doors and graffiti that suggests it was used for storing bolts of cloth.

Domestic Outbuildings and Yard Features

The only apparently original outbuilding to survive near the house is a planked log smokehouse. The tall, square-plan smokehouse stands to the south of the southwest corner of the house, nearest to the

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kitchen entry than to other entries. The logs are joined with half-dovetail notches, and they are placed directly one on top of the other without chinking or mortar. The asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof has a wood finial spike. The foundation is made of concrete blocks with an unusually high ratio of aggregate. The aggregate is comprised of sharp multi-hued pebbles, possibly sandstone. The jamb of the single north-facing entry is cut-nailed, although the batten door itself is wire-nailed. Charring visible in places on the exterior, and more extensive on the interior, resulted when a ham fell into the smoke fire and nearly burned the building down. The interior is spanned by two joists from which the meat hung. Lower, at about seven feet above the present concrete floor, are dimensional lumber ledges that probably once supported poles or beams from which more meat was hung. On the north wall to the east side of the entry are multiple ledges (heavily charred) that may once have supported shelves or other features. To the west of the smokehouse at the west edge of the yard is a depression that marks the site of a former underground ice house. A stone foundation exists here under grade.

Behind the house to the west is the garage, a one-story frame building with weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, and a cinder block foundation. The garage has two vehicle bays without doors, sheltered by a shed extension on pole supports. Inside are exposed studs, a plasterboard ceiling, and a concrete floor. Off the east side of the garage stands a mid-twentieth century gas pump manufactured by the Gilbarco company but with a broken Mobilgas sign.

There are two chicken houses, both one-story frame buildings under metal roofs. One stands to the southwest of the smokehouse. It has a conventional shed-roofed form, vertical board siding, and two south-facing windows (now covered). The other stands to the north of the house. It has a front-gable roof, board-and-batten siding, and window openings covered with wire mesh. This chicken house retains interior features associated with its former use such as brooder boxes and a low platform along the north wall constructed of tongue-and-groove boards.

Rockwood is surrounded on the east, south, and west sides by a large yard loosely defined at the edges by large maples, spruce, and other ornamental or shade trees. The front (east) yard has a lower terrace on the south side where the septic field is now located (whether this area has always had a terrace aspect is unknown). There are various clumps of yuccas, large boxwoods, and other plantings. A garden was once located to the northwest of the house, reached by a flagstone walkway. The stones from this walkway have been salvaged and may be relaid. An apple tree and an old grape vine are located in the relatively undefined area to the north of the house.

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Description (continued)

Farm Buildings and Structures

The buildings that comprise Rockwood's large farm are located mostly to the west of the house, as shown on the map that accompanies the nomination. Several resources are located apart from the others, and these are addressed first.

To the northeast of the house on Black Hollow Road is the original principal entrance to the farm. The entrance consists of two curved limestone rubble wing walls, one on each side of the entrance. The walls terminate at limestone gate pillars that flank a cattle guard with concretework inscribed "Rockwood." Leaning against the east wing wall in a jagged row are several large, irregular, tabular stones. These may be in their original configuration--perhaps they served as a sort of crude guard rail--or they may be cap stones that once protected the tops of the wing walls. The lane that once connected the entrance to a point at the east edge of the Rockwood yard is entrenched from former traffic.

To the southeast of the house is a two-level frame lamb barn (used for sheltering orphaned lambs) with vertical board siding, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, and a cinder block foundation. The building has batten front doors, six-light windows (without panes), and a hatch in the west gable for loading hay into the upper-level hay mow. Below the hatch is a large limestone and concrete block or platform. On the south side of the barn extends a small shed-roofed wing, probably a pump house, and extending from it the concrete cap of a cistern. Under the cap is visible the top of the beehive-form concrete cistern. Lying on the ground near the cistern is the remnants of a Cincinnati Pump Co. pump. The barn's lower-level interior is divided into stalls by fence-like board half-walls. Just south of the lamb barn on an adjacent parcel (not part of the nominated area) stands a short cinder block silo without a roof. The silo was associated with a large barn that burned in the 1970s.

To the southwest of the house, across a farm lane, stands a combination corn crib and wagon shelter. The one-story frame building has a conventional, integral, five-part form with a center wagon drive-through flanked by narrow corn cribs which are in turn flanked by open-sided wagon sheds. The corn cribs are enclosed with wire-nailed circular-sawn slats that are widely spaced below and more closely spaced above. Above the drive-through and cribs is a storage area with a hatch in the front gable. Salt damage to the structure under this upper level suggests salt or some other corrosive substance was once stored there. Other features include metal roofing, batten doors on the front of the corn cribs,

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sawn and log supports under the side sheds, and poured concrete foundation piers.

Behind the corn crib and wagon shelter is a deteriorated woodshed. The one-story building stands on dimension lumber posts and has a metal-sheathed shed roof. It is open on three sides and has vertical board siding on the west end. The woodshed may be torn down in the near future. A deteriorated nineteenth century barn formerly stood in front (west) of the corn crib and wagon shelter. Hewn timbers and dressed limestone foundation stones from this barn, which was torn down in early 2004, are stockpiled around the farm. To the north of the corn crib and wagon shelter and west of the garage is a small cinder block pump house with a metal-sheathed gable roof, a batten door, and vertical board gables.

In a swale to the south of the main farm complex stands a small cinder block spring house with a metal-sheathed shed roof and a concrete trough inside. To the west of the spring house, on a farm lane that leads southward out of the nominated area, is a small gambrel-roofed bull barn with a cinder block lower level for stock and a slatted vertical board upper level containing a hay mow. Other features include metal roofing, a gambreled access dormer on the north side of the hay mow, unglazed window openings in the lower level, X-braced slatted board doors, and a small stock loading shed on the north end. This barn is similar to the calf barn described below. The lane that passes in front of the barn continues outside the nominated area to a cluster of farm resources on a ridge to the south. These were once a part of the Rockwood farm.

The main farm complex comprises seven individual buildings and structures including the sprawling dairy barn, which has numerous connected wings and additions. The barn itself is a large two-story building aligned north-south and built in three phases with the original section at the south end and sequential additions to the north end. The original section and additions share a continuous metal-sheathed gambrel roof with two slatted gabled ventilation cupolas, a small weather vane at the south end, and lightning arresters. The gambrel ends are weatherboarded. At the peak of the south end are large louvered doors and a projecting hay fork rail. At the north end is a hay bonnet over the projecting hay fork rail and upper and lower batten doors. The sides of the barn have cinder block and weatherboarded frame walls with metal-framed windows in the first story.

The first story contains a continuous space where the cows were milked. The cinder block walls are painted white and the concrete floor is scored with runnels to aid the removal of waste. The floor

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Description (continued)

slopes from north to south for the same purpose, and it has a stepped cross section with a center driveway flanked by cow platforms, gutters or mangers, and outer walkways (at the highest level). The ceiling of the north addition is sheathed with rockboard whereas the original south end and middle addition have beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings. A metal track with a perforated rail extends down the center line of the ceiling. Other features include steel pole supports, a ladder to the hay mow in the northeast corner, a wooden hopper in the northwest corner, and a concrete foundation up to the level of the window sills at the south end. The cavernous space of the hay mow contains two or more inclined hay elevators suspended from the hay fork rail. The conveyor-belt-like steel elevators were installed in the 1960s.

An open-fronted cinder block hyphen at the northeast corner of the original section of the barn connects to the original milk house, a one-story building with a concrete foundation and half wall, weatherboarded frame construction above, and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The south wall has been partially removed exposing an interior with painted beaded tongue-and-groove wall and ceiling sheathing. Other features include an interior brick flue, a single six-over-six window (other window sash have been removed), and a small wooden ventilator on the ridge. Off the east end of the original milk house stands a small concrete structure (probably a pump house) with a metal-sheathed gable roof. The structure is almost completely hidden by overgrown boxwoods.

Across the front (south end) of the dairy barn is a mostly open frame shed that extends at its east and west ends. The east end attaches to the 1964 milking parlor, which appears to have been built in two phases, both sections one-story cinder block buildings with metal-sheathed gable roofs. The west section—the milking parlor proper—has glazed block interior walls and a sunken concrete floor. The east section was used for milk storage and has modern T-1-11 siding on its south side. A sign on its exterior reads "We use a Dari-Kool Bulk Cooler."

A short cinder block and frame wing on the west side of the dairy barn attaches to two silos. The shorter of these is constructed of cinder blocks with steel reinforcing rings and turnbuckles on the exterior. It is roofless and has tires hung near its top (the silo is similar to the one described above that stands just outside the nominated area). The taller silo has a smooth concrete surface that suggests it is of poured concrete construction. It was made taller with cinder blocks and it has a conical metal-sheathed roof with a metal finial spike. The west extension of the frame shed on the front of the dairy barn projects towards a detached cow shed with a metal-sheathed gable roof. The cow shed is open on

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Description (continued)

the south end and east side and it has slatted vertical board siding on the west side. At its north end are two silos, both of concrete construction with domical metal roofs. USGS maps indicate the cow shed was built between 1965 and 1972.

The easternmost building in the main farm complex is the shop, a one-story cinder block building with a metal-sheathed gable roof. The building was extended on the north end, as evidenced by a cinder block interior partition (the formerly exterior north end of the original section) and a change in roofing material to corrugated metal. The south section has a tongue-and-groove door on a track and the north addition has a corrugated metal-sheathed door on a track. Other features include metal frame windows, an interior cinder block flue, exposed construction materials on the interior, and a caged south end for the storage of tools and so forth.

Near the shop stands the calf barn, a two-level building with a metal-sheathed gambrel roof. The first level is cinder block and the upper hay mow is frame with vertical board siding. Other features include a gambreled access dormer on the north side of the hay mow, wood-framed two-light windows, and a tongue-and-groove door on a track on the south side. A one-story cinder block woodshop addition extends on the west end and a two-level open-fronted frame lumber shed extends on the east end. The woodshop has a metal-sheathed gable roof with fiberglass panel skylights. Across the front (south side) is an open-fronted shed addition with board-and-batten ends.

At the north end of the complex stands an open-fronted machinery shed of creosoted pole construction with a metal-sheathed shed roof and a cinder block half wall below slatted vertical board siding. Near it, and just beyond the north end of the dairy barn, is the mill house, a two-story frame building built into a bank with a concrete basement story. The upper stories have a metal-sheathed gable roof, slatted vertical board siding on the north side, added corrugated metal siding on the west and south sides, and vertical slatted siding on the east end corresponding to a corn crib that rises the full two stories on the interior. The gaps between the slats are infilled with strips of wood, probably an alteration intended to make the building more weatherproof. On the north side is a concrete loading dock with a shed roof. The concrete base may contain a cistern. In the first floor are a ladder stair, a wood hopper, and wooden trunks associated with the building's mill function. The concrete foundation rises a full story on the south side where there are two garage bays with tongue-and-groove doors on tracks. Inside the basement are wood and metal hoppers, an inclined metal trough with an auger conveyor for moving grain or feed, and heavy timber supports for the first floor. Off the

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northwest corner of the mill house is a small cinder block pump house with a metal-sheathed shed roof. A lane on the north side of the mill house leads westward to a scale house or weigh station outside the nominated area. Farther west is the site of a log cabin formerly associated with the farm that was moved in recent decades to Emory, Virginia. The cabin's chimney still stands at the site.

Integrity Statement

The Rockwood property possesses good architectural integrity. The Rockwood house retains nearly all of its historic features, and the rehabilitation underway will be sympathetic to its historic character. The modern sunroom addition detracts from the integrity of the house, although its location to the rear mitigates the intrusion; also, it will likely be removed in the near future. The small complement of domestic outbuildings and structures has been depleted over time, but it retains its notable half-dovetail log smokehouse as well as later building such as the garage that date to the period of significance. As a group the property's many farm buildings from the second quarter of the twentieth century is almost entirely complete. Post-1955 additions and alterations to the historic farm buildings are relatively few, and those that have been made are in keeping in form and material. A few farm buildings, notably the ca. 1960 and later shop and the ca. 1970 cow shed, date to after 1955. An unfortunate recent loss is the nineteenth century timber-frame barn, which was deemed too deteriorated for practicable stabilization or rehabilitation. The nominated parcel is agricultural in character, mostly pasture with some wooded acreage. Surrounding parcels are similar in character.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Rockwood, located in Pulaski County, Virginia, is an outstanding late Greek Revival house built in 1874-75 for cattle dealer Francis Bell Sr. Bell was an innovator in the export of live cattle to Great Britain, a lucrative trade he adapted from Canadian precedent. Bell retained architect Robert C. Burkholder and builder John P. Pettyjohn, both of Lynchburg, to design and build his brick mansion. Notable functional and decorative features of the house include windows with iron lintels and louvered awning shutters, a sky-lit stair hall, decorative floorboards, and plaster cornices and medallions with acanthus, fruit, and female cameo motifs. The property includes a log smokehouse and a large farm complex that supplied food to the nearby Radford Ordnance Works during World War II. The rehabilitation of Rockwood by Bell family descendants is underway.

Applicable Criteria

Rockwood is eligible under Criteria A and B with significance in the area of agriculture for its association with local agricultural innovator Frank Bell Sr. and for its extensive dairy farm, which provided food for the Radford Ordnance Works. The property is also eligible under Criterion C with significance in the area of architecture for the quality of design and craftsmanship exhibited by the Rockwood house, specifically the plaster ornament, decorative wood and ironwork, unusual fenestration, surviving bracketed balcony, and sky-lit stair hall. The period of significance extends from 1874, the year construction work on Rockwood began, until 1955, encompassing the period of the farm's conversion into a dairying operation in the mid-twentieth century. Rockwood is eligible at the state level of significance under Criterion C and at the local level of significance under Criteria A and B.

Acknowledgments

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Historic Context

Francis Bell Sr. (1820-93), the original owner of Rockwood, was a native of Augusta County, Virginia. By the late antebellum period Francis Bell Sr. engaged in cattle dealing, work that frequently took him to Pulaski and Montgomery counties where he had extensive contact with the Cloyd, McGavock, and Kent families. In 1855 he married Sarah James Kent (1824-84), the daughter of Montgomery County plantation owner James Randall Kent. By the end of 1858 the Bells had moved to Pulaski County, and by 1860 they had built a house in the Robinson Tract area of the county known as Mountain Home. The 1860 federal census identifies Bell as a Pulaski County farmer who possessed \$40,000 in real estate and \$4,800 in personal estate.¹

Francis Bell Sr. was one of the largest landowners in post-bellum Pulaski County. By 1874 he had amassed over 5,000 acres and in 1880 his holdings were recorded as 6,240 acres, the most of any Dublin area farmer listed in a business directory of that year. Bell began to purchase property near Dublin in the early 1870s. According to Bell family genealogist Isabelle Mottesheard Bell, Francis Bell Sr. purchased the land on which Rockwood stands from the Darst and Cloyd families in 1872. Bell did purchase sixty acres from John and Mary Darst in 1871, although county land tax records suggest a different scenario. The 1876 tax records show that Bell acquired a 569.5-acre parcel in 1875 or 1876, on which stood a \$10,000 improvement. This undoubtedly indicates the presence of Rockwood, which was built in 1874-75, although how Bell acquired the 569.5 acres is unresolved in the deed records.²

Francis Bell Sr. played an important role in the agricultural development of Pulaski County as an innovator in cattle marketing. Cattle raising and droving has a long history in the region. In his study *Southwest Virginia's Railroad: Modernization and the Sectional Crisis* (1994), historian Kenneth W. Noe notes that commercial cattle droving was a significant element in the market economy of Southwest Virginia in the mid-nineteenth century. Droving was dominated by the wealthier planters and by what Noe calls "farmer-middlemen assembling large herds for sale." Noe quotes James Silk Buckingham, a period observer of a cattle herd in Pulaski County, to illustrate the dimensions and workings of the trade:

Vast herds of cattle are driven up here from the southern and western parts of the State--we saw as many as 600 at least in one drove--to be pastured and fattened for the eastern markets;

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and it is thought to be more profitable even than planting, though capital invested in that yields 25 to 30 per cent; but in grazing it is said to realize 50 to 60 per cent, on the average of many years running.

Pulaski County's rich pastures and grain fields, a product of its underlying limestone geology, suited it to cattle production. In this regard it was a version in miniature of the Kentucky Bluegrass and Tennessee Nashville Basin regions where limestone lands supported prosperous stock-raising operations by the late antebellum period.³

Pulaski County historian E. Pierce Whitman, whose earliest memories of the local cattle industry dated to the 1880s, has written that the old practice of droving was supplanted by rail shipment in the 1850s, and that transporting live cattle by rail apparently facilitated the development of what was termed the "export cattle trade." Francis Bell Sr., one of the county's largest cattle grazers of the mid-1870s, "was the pioneer of the export business," according to Whitman. A detailed account of Bell's innovation, written by his son J. R. K. Bell, appears in *The Bells of the Valleys of Virginia* (2003) by Isabelle Mottesheard Bell. J. R. K. Bell wrote that his father "conceived the idea of exporting cattle to Europe alive" and made his first shipment to Liverpool, England, in the summer of 1878. The younger Bell accompanied the shipment, and he described how "our cattle were taken charge of by our agent and taken to the [Liverpool] stock yards and sold in open competition with the Scotch, Irish, and English cattle, and were considered as fine as the Irish heifers." "After we had shipped several boat loads," Bell continued, "there were posted all about, signs, Pulaski Beef for sale." The cattle may have been shipped from Baltimore; during the period Francis Bell Sr. had business dealings with Lewis Myers & Co. "Cattle Brokers" based at Calverton Drove Yards in that city. In 1879 Bell's contact in Liverpool was George Roddick, "British & Foreign Cattle Salesman."

Francis Bell Sr. apparently derived inspiration for his venture from the Canadian export cattle trade. Bell was assisted in his first shipment by cattleman William Miller, who moved to Pulaski County from Canada in 1877. According to his son, Bell secured Miller's services because there was "no one here that had had any experience on the Atlantic with stock." Canadian cattlemen of the late nineteenth century focused on supplying the British market, unlike their brethren in the United States who catered to a large domestic market. According to historian David H. Breen, "The importance of the trans-Atlantic live cattle trade . . . distinguishes the Canadian range cattle industry from its American counterpart." A Canada-Pulaski County connection had been established about 1870 when a Draper's

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Valley stockman bought a prize-winning bull in Ontario and had it driven the 700 miles to Pulaski County. The offspring of this bull, named Loudoun Duke, were sold to cattlemen from the Shenandoah Valley to Tennessee.⁵

Francis Bell Sr.'s new enterprise was not without risk. In 1878 or 1879 Bell's uninsured second or third cattle shipment was lost at sea. Bell had access to sufficient capital to continue, however, and it is said that a successful speculation soon after his loss more than compensated for it. (An account of the speculation notes that Bell "had bought most [of] the cattle in Tazewell County.") J. R. K. Bell became a successful cattleman in his own right. He is credited with introducing the first herd of pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle to his farm in the Robinson Tract area of Pulaski County about 1890.⁶

Virginia business directories of the era shed additional light on the context of Francis Bell Sr.'s activities. An 1871 directory suggests that cattle dealing was concentrated in Southwest Virginia and particularly in Bland County, which boasted eleven of the thirty-one cattle dealers listed for the state. (Bland County adjoins Pulaski County on the north.) Francis Bell Sr. was one of three cattle dealers in the Dublin area in 1871. An 1880 directory listed Bell as one of six cattle dealers in the Dublin area. The 1880 directory also noted that "the raising of fat cattle for the eastern and foreign markets is extensively carried on" in Pulaski County, suggesting the possibility that Bell's innovation had been adopted by other stockmen. An 1893 directory counted ten cattle dealers in Pulaski County including Francis Bell Sr. Frank Bell continued his father's export business, at least until 1897 when he shipped cattle to Liverpool on the *R. M. S. Majestic*. By the early twentieth century the export cattle trade was well established in Pulaski County. One observer estimated that 5,500 head of cattle were shipped from the county, 2,500 of which were destined for foreign markets.⁷

When the Bells moved into Rockwood, apparently in the summer of 1875, their family consisted of Francis Sr. and Sarah and the youngest of their two children, Frank (born in 1864) and Mary Louisa (born in 1861). The oldest children, the twins James Randall Kent Bell and Samuel Hays Bell, born in 1858, enrolled at Washington & Lee College in Lexington in 1875. It may be that they lived in the newly completed house before going to college. According to James Otey Hoge Jr., Bell family relation James Armistead Otey lived at Rockwood about 1876 while he and Frank Bell attended the Wysorton School in Dublin. The 1880 federal census lists Francis Sr. and Sarah and their four children as members of the same household, with J. R. and Sam helping their father with the farming, Mary L. at home, and Frank in school. The 1880 census also provides insight into Francis Bell Sr.'s farming

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operation at Rockwood shortly after the construction of the house. The statistics for cattle appear to relate to Bell's export trade. In 1879 Bell purchased eighty cattle, the same number that he sold. The farm was also stocked with horses, milch cows, sheep, and swine. A thousand bushels of corn was harvested from fifty acres. Rockwood also had an apple orchard with 300 bearing trees and a smaller peach orchard with fifty bearing trees.⁸

Frank Bell married Ellen Gordan "Nellie" Kent (1867-1941) in 1889. At first the couple lived at another farm, but they moved to Rockwood shortly after Francis Sr.'s death and lived there until their own deaths. Two of their children also lived in the house as adults. Sarah Kent "Sadie" Bell (1890-1980), who never married, lived at Rockwood for most of her life, and Samuel Hays Bell IV (1901-98) lived there his entire life. Samuel IV's first and second wives, Virginia Byrd Pearce (1911-71) and Dorn Ebersole, also lived at Rockwood. In 1975 Mrs. Sam Bell was a member of the Hoe and Hope Garden Club and of the Pulaski County Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Frank Bell's older sister Mary Louisa lived at Rockwood intermittently after the death of her husband Dr. Kent Black in 1909. "Auntie," as Mary Louisa was known, was deaf, and she communicated with her family by sign language. In addition to these long term residents, many other relatives, descendants, and acquaintances visited Rockwood for extended periods. One was Presbyterian minister Rev. Robert Gray who resided with the Bells in the early twentieth century.⁹

Agricultural statistics from the early twentieth century suggest Rockwood was among the first generation of Pulaski County farms with large-scale dairying operations. In the 1920s, Pulaski was not a major dairy producer compared to other counties in Southwest Virginia. In 1924 only one dairy farm was reported for the county, compared to thirty-eight in adjacent Montgomery County (and 662 in Rockingham County). Ensilage was not commonly practiced in Pulaski County in the 1920s--fewer than ten farms were reported to have silos in 1924. In 1929 an industrial development expert at Virginia Tech wrote that "Pulaski County is just beginning to develop the dairy industry."¹⁰

It is against this backdrop that the Rockwood dairying operation was developed. Sam Bell IV is believed to have begun dairy farming at Rockwood soon after he returned to the farm from college in 1922. The establishment of the Radford Ordnance Works in 1941 is believed to have been a factor in the growth of the Rockwood dairy farm. The man-power needs created by the construction and operation of the "powder plant" added population to the nearby communities of Radford and Dublin. Radford was described in the Richmond press as a "boom town" and the workforce at the Ordnance

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Works was reported to be 23,150 in March 1941. Rockwood supplied the immediate area's burgeoning population with dairy products and other foodstuffs. A 1950 USGS map shows the dairy barn and calf barn, and the mill house and bull barn are thought to have been built shortly thereafter.¹¹

The expansion of dairy operations at Rockwood coincided with the transition from Frank Bell, who died in December 1939, to his son Samuel Hays Bell IV. Sam Bell IV lived at Rockwood until his death at age ninety-six in 1998. The house now belongs to Rockwood Holdings, LLC, and is in the process of rehabilitation by Sarah Kent Blakemore Drummond, the great-granddaughter of Francis Bell Sr., and her son Frank O. Drummond III.¹²

Architectural Analysis

Rockwood was designed by Lynchburg architect Robert Calhoun Burkholder (1826-1914) in 1874. On November 20, 1874, the *Lynchburg Virginian* ran the following notice:

Returned.—Our townsman R. C. Burkholder, Esq., who has been absent several months, filling a contract in Pulaski County, has returned to the city. During his absence he has had constructed for Mr. Bell of that County probably the finest dwelling in Southwestern Virginia. It cost thirty thousand dollars.

Architectural historian Richard H. Ryan has studied Burkholder's career and presented his findings in the thesis "Robert C. Burkholder of Lynchburg, Virginia: A Typical Victorian Architect" (1981). Ryan describes Burkholder as "Lynchburg's first full time architect," and he suggests that "no other person had as great an effect" on the architectural development of that important Piedmont Virginia city. Architectural historian S. Allen Chambers Jr., an authority on the architecture of Lynchburg, regards Burkholder as one of the city's leading architects of the post-Civil War era.¹³

As a young man, probably in the late 1840s, R. C. Burkholder traveled to New York to study architecture. The 1850 federal census places him in Lynchburg, where in February 1851 Burkholder and associate J. H. Walker advertised their new "Carpenters Business." Their advertisement in the *Lynchburg Virginian* stated "Each of us . . . went to the city of New York, and other Northern cities for the purpose of gaining information in the above named business." Burkholder soon advertised himself as a "General Architect" with skill in drafting plans for houses, greenhouses, and gardens. By 1858 he

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had branched into the building supplies trade and had acquired a planing and molding mill. After the interruption of the Civil War, Burkholder resumed manufacturing under a succession of names and partnerships: Burkholder and Haltzclaw's "Sash, Blind and Door Manufactory" (1865-68), the Lynchburg Planing & Molding Works (1868-1870), Burkholder and Bailey (early 1870s), and Burkholder & Pettyjohn (1870s). In the mid-1870s Burkholder sold his interest in the planing mill to his former partner, John P. Pettyjohn (b. 1846), and devoted himself to the development of his architectural practice. Burkholder remained closely associated with Pettyjohn, who is identified as the builder of Rockwood.¹⁴

S. Allen Chambers Jr. describes John P. Pettyjohn as "Lynchburg's leading building contractor" and "the dean of Lynchburg builders." Pettyjohn advertised in an 1875-76 Lynchburg directory as a carpenter and builder and as a provider of sash, doors, blinds, and "scroll sawing." He also produced moldings during the mid-1870s. Pettyjohn earned a reputation as one of Lynchburg's most progressive builders, as evidenced by his ca. 1887 house on Federal Street, one of the city's first Queen Anne-style residences. Presumably, the doors, window sash and shutters, milled ornament, and other Rockwood building components were produced at Pettyjohn's mill.¹⁵

Another individual who was apparently involved in Rockwood's construction was Samuel A. Bailey (d. 1882). Bailey was a partner in the firm of Bailey & Lanahan during the antebellum period and has been described as a leading Lynchburg builder of his day. He was Burkholder's partner in 1871 and was still associated with him in 1875, as revealed by a mechanics lien recorded in Lynchburg on August 16, 1875, and in Pulaski County two days later. The lien was granted to R. C. Burkholder & Co., comprised of R. C. Burkholder, Samuel A. Bailey, and John P. Pettyjohn "general contractors." This important historical document provides a wealth of information on the construction of Rockwood. It reads in part as follows:

To work on your House Per contract: \$4,341.00
" 1 Extra Closet: \$30.00
" Shelving Linen Closet: \$20
" Dressing 4,000 feet of Walnut Flooring @ 6: \$24.00
" furnishing 1 Room in Hard wood: \$10.00
" 3 Hard wood Mantle pieces @ 5: \$15.00
" Plans for the House: \$150.00

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- " Traveling expenses while making Plan 2 Trips: \$20.00
- " Pulling [putting] in Sleeper[s] and Laying Part of Floor in Basement Hall: \$15.00
- " Traveling expenses to Richmond: \$12.00
- " [traveling expenses to] Baltimore: \$18.00
- " Amount Pd. to Board the Hands about: \$350.00
- " [amount paid] for Stone [?] sill: \$12.50
- " Damages for delay or failure on your part to provide materials for the work and also in not having the Brick work and plastering furnished in reasonable time about: \$500.00

The lien was attached to the Rockwood House and to one hundred surrounding acres. The lien situation may explain why the house does not appear in the land tax records until 1876.¹⁶

Taking into account the November 1874 newspaper notice and other information in addition to the lien, a number of things may be surmised. Burkholder's stay of "several months" in Pulaski County before November 20, 1874, suggests that construction began in the summer. Perhaps the contract was signed August 16, 1874, a year before Burkholder resorted to the lien. Bell contracted separately for the brickwork and plastering whereas R. C. Burkholder & Co. presumably completed the carpentry and finish work with their own crew brought up from Lynchburg. (According to tradition, the brick was fired on the place, a common practice during the area. Lumps of fused brick probably associated with the process have been discovered in the garden area.) Perhaps the delay with the brickwork and plastering forced R. C. Burkholder & Co. to remain in Pulaski County longer than anticipated, or perhaps a lengthy return visit was required between November 20, 1874, and August 16, 1875. The possible reasons for Burkholder's trips to Richmond and Baltimore are discussed below. A family tradition concerning Rockwood states that the lost cattle shipment of 1878 or 1879 prevented Bell from installing expensive mantels in the house and also affected furnishing plans. Perhaps the lien alludes to a change of plans that underlies the tradition. The late purchase of the three hardwood mantels may represent an inability to purchase more costly mantels, presumably for the main first-floor rooms.¹⁷

Rockwood shares similarities with one of R. C. Burkholder's principal designs of the period, the architect's own house at 203 Cabell St. in the Daniels Hill neighborhood of Lynchburg, built in 1875. Both two-story brick houses share classically ornamented cornices and projecting bracketed window lintels. In the early twentieth century the Burkholder House received Classical Revival porch columns

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(coincidentally paralleling developments at Rockwood), but the original chamfered and molded pilasters, which were retained, were virtually identical to the posts that survive on Rockwood's south porch. (Presumably the porch posts of both houses were produced at Pettyjohn's mill.) In overall form the two houses are dissimilar—the more modestly scaled Burkholder House has an unusual Y form—but they share the plan element of a front entry hall that connects to a central stair hall. Rockwood and the Burkholder House are also similar in that they are predominately Greek Revival in character.¹⁸

Rockwood also shares certain features with another grand Pulaski County residence, the 1856-57 house known as Spring Dale. This monumentally scaled Greek Revival house has a plaster cornice that is very similar to the cornices in Rockwood. The Spring Dale cornice features alternating floral and cartouche ornaments attached to a deep cove, the same basic arrangement and three-dimensional effect as at Rockwood and one that is relatively rare in published examples of mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival houses. (The closest parallel discovered by the author is the 1857 James Gallier Jr. House in New Orleans.) That two Pulaski County houses should share such a feature suggests more than coincidence. At the very least it seems that Francis Bell Sr. would have been inspired by Spring Dale. Beyond that is the possibility that the same plasterer was involved in the decoration of the two houses, or that the plaster ornaments were ordered from the same supplier. Shop-cast plaster ornaments were produced at many urban workshops in the United States and Europe, shipped in sections, and reassembled and installed at the building site. It may be that R. C. Burkholder's trip to Baltimore in 1874 (or 1875) involved the selection or purchase of plaster ornament. Samuel Hays Bell IV (b. 1901) claimed that the plaster ornament was made or installed by Italian craftsmen. Family papers include a receipt for \$660 paid to one R. L. Hambrick for the plastering of the house.¹⁹

Other decorative features of Rockwood that were not locally produced are its iron window lintels. These are comprised of ornate cast iron crestings above galvanized sheet iron entablatures and brackets. The process of galvanizing sheet iron—coating it with a layer of corrosion-resistant zinc—was perfected in the 1830s and had become common in America by the 1850s. Historians Margot Gayle and David W. Look note that "many window and door lintels that from a distance appear to be stone or wood are pressed sheet metal, often coated with zinc." Galvanized sheet metal was lighter and easier to install than cast iron and stone, and by the early 1870s manufacturers offered a wide range of galvanized sheet iron architectural elements.²⁰

Any one of the numerous manufacturers of architectural cast and galvanized iron may have provided

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window lintels for Rockwood, but one foundry in particular stands out as a candidate. This is the Richmond Architectural Ironworks of Asa Snyder. In the early 1870s Snyder employed seventy-five workers in the production of iron building components, which were shipped throughout Virginia and North Carolina. An 1884 Richmond promotional publication listed among the company's products "architectural castings of all kinds for building purposes, together with varied and beautiful galvanized iron products, artistic and light, but strong and durable for cornices, steeples, window work and buildings of all kinds." An 1874 Richmond newspaper article identifies Snyder's foundry as the manufacturer of an "iron front and galvanized cornice for a large store in Lynchburg." S. Allen Chambers believes this store was the 1873 Lynch House hotel and commercial building, which he attributes to R. C. Burkholder. The connections Chambers makes between the Richmond Architectural Iron Works and Burkholder suggest the possibility that the Richmond firm supplied the ironwork for Rockwood. This could explain R. C. Burkholder's trip to Richmond.²¹

Decorative ironwork also appears in the form of cast iron brackets under the balcony at the southwest corner. These brackets, five in number, have a delicate foliated form that is very close in appearance to brackets under a balcony on the Alexander-Withrow Building in Lexington, believed to have been added in the 1850s. A collection of brackets identical to those under the southwest balcony survive in storage on the property. These likely supported balconies that once flanked the original front entry porch, onto which the window/doors of the southeast and northeast parlors opened (another balcony may have extended along the north elevation). For there to have been balconies at these locations, unconnected to the front and south side porches, suggests the desire to have the convenience of a full-facade front porch without the imposition on privacy. The uncovered balconies admitted more light to the interior, also a consideration with the skylight over the stair hall. Conversely, the awning shutters at the tops of the windows served to filter light. The modulation of light at Rockwood, the presence and former presence of balconies, and the lavish use of iron and plaster ornament all contribute to the architectural sophistication of the house.²²

According to Isabelle Mottesheard Bell, citing information from Samuel Hays Bell IV, Rockwood's Classical Revival porch was added ca. 1912, and a historical account by Sarah Kent Blakemore Drummond proposes a date of ca. 1910. The porch appears in a photograph dated ca. 1916 in Bell's book. The large inscription "Painted May 1915" under the pre-existing south porch may refer to the original painting of the added porch and may therefore indicate its period of construction.²³

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The architectural characteristics of the dairy farm at Rockwood also deserve discussion. These are conventional in form for their place in time. The gambrel roof form of four of the barns was standard throughout the nation by the mid-twentieth century, for it was well suited to light nailed frame construction and it created uninterrupted hay mow space. Agricultural writers of the era stressed the importance of ventilation and hygiene, considerations in the design of the Rockwood dairy barn and the use of easily cleaned cinder block construction in most of the buildings. One dairy expert, writing in the early 1940s, suggested placing the milk house on one side of the barn and the silos on the other side, the approach used in the Rockwood dairy barn. Side silo placement had the added advantage of allowing the barn to be extended at the ends, certainly a consideration at Rockwood where the dairy barn was extended two times. The four silos that survive on the farm illustrate the range of concrete construction methods available during the period. According to Sam Bell V, builders involved in the construction of the barns included Will Wheeling and Estelle Mabry.²¹

Architect/Builder (continued)

Burkholder, Robert Calhoun (architect)
Pettyjohn, John P. (builder)
Bailey, Samuel A. (builder)
Hambrick, R. L. (plasterer)
Wheeling, Will (builder)
Mabry, Estelle (builder)

Endnotes

1. Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 11-19. Several Francis Bells are associated with Rockwood. For the sake of simplicity, a system devised by biographer James Otey Hoge Jr. is used to distinguish among them. Francis Bell the first (1820-93) is referred to as Francis Bell Sr. His son Francis the second (1864-1939) is referred to as Frank Bell and his grandson Francis the third (1894-1963) is referred to as Francis Jr. (Hoge, *Diaries of James Armistead Otey*, 889).

2. Ibid., 23-24, 89; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*, 435. A granddaughter of Francis Bell Sr. has proposed that the name "Rockwood" derives from the presence of rocks in the woods near the house (Black, "Rockwood").

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Statement of Significance (continued)

3. Noe, *Southwest Virginia's Railroad*, 36-37; Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860* (Vol. 2), 837-838.

4. Whitman, *Pulaski County: A Collection of Articles*, 44-45; Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 96-97; Smith, *The Land that is Pulaski County*, 302; Worhsam et al, "Pulaski County Heritage Conservation Study," 42, 50; George Roddick to Francis Bell, July 31, 1879, in Bell family correspondence; Bell family correspondence in the possession of the present owner.

5. Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 96-97; Breen, *Canadian Prairie West and the Ranching Frontier*, 65; Whitman, *Pulaski County: A Collection of Articles*, 45.

6. Whitman, *Pulaski County: A Collection of Articles*, 46; Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 75, 91-92, 96-99.

7. Andrew Boyd & Co., *Virginia State Business Directory, 1871-72*, 216; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*, 432, 434; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Gazette and Classified Business Directory, 1893-94*, 1041; Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 83-84; *Pulaski County, Virginia: A Historic and Descriptive Sketch*, 34.

8. Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 65; Hoge, *Diaries of James Armistead Otey*, 20. The 1880 farm statistics are divided between two farms, probably Rockwood and Mountain Home. In a June 1875 letter Sarah Bell's sister Louisa Kent Otey wrote to Sarah that "you will soon be in you[r] new house and have some more comfort" (Bell family correspondence).

9. Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 78-81, 105; Hoge, *Diaries of James Armistead Otey*, 20, 58, 60, 232, 262; Black, "Rockwood."

10. *Virginia Dairy Industry*, 19, 21, 34; Humbert, *Industrial Survey, Pulaski County*, 33.

11. Sarah Drummond, Frank Drummond, Francis Bell, and Samuel Hays Bell V personal communication; *Richmond News Leader*, January 12 and February 5, 1941; *Southwest Times*, March 23, 1941; Radford, Va., 1950 1:62500 USGS map (from aerial photos taken in 1949). Samuel Hays

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Bell V, born in 1949, notes that the mill house was in existence as far back as he can remember. He also suggests the original part of the dairy barn may have been built in the 1920s or 1930s, although its cinder block construction would suggest an original date of construction probably no earlier than the late 1930s.

12. *Southwest Times*, December 21, 1939.

13. Ryan, "Robert C. Burkholder," 1, 65, Appendix IV; Wells and Dalton, *The Virginia Architects*, 55, 56; Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 131.

14. Ryan, "Robert C. Burkholder," 4-10; Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 89.

15. Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 225, 293; Ryan, "Robert C. Burkholder," 8-10; *Lynchburg Virginian*, January 1, 1875.

16. Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 213; Ryan, "Robert C. Burkholder," 8-10; Pulaski County Deed Book 6 p. 254.

17. Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 40, 89, 91-92; Black, "Rockwood."

18. Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 246-247; Ryan, "Robert C. Burkholder," 33-35, plates 9 and 12. Work on the Burkholder House may have commenced in 1874. The involvement of Burkholder, Pettyjohn, and Bailey with Rockwood may have a bearing on research into the unknown architect and builder of the nearby New Dublin Presbyterian Church, built or extensively remodeled in 1875, and its 1874 manse. New Dublin Church features a rose window with a wooden-spoked wagon wheel form that is similar to a rose window in the tower of Lynchburg's Court Street Baptist Church, designed by R. C. Burkholder in 1879 (Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 243-244; Pezzoni, "New Dublin Presbyterian Church"). The Bell family attended New Dublin Church.

19. Samuel Hays Bell V personal communication; Pulice, "Spring Dale;" Black, "Rockwood;" Lane, *Architecture of the Old South*, 298-299; "Ornamental Plaster Trade." In 1878-79 John P. Pettyjohn subcontracted the plaster and stucco work for Lynchburg's Opera House to the firm of Doherty & Black (Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 225). The Hambrick receipt could not be located when the nomination

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Statement of Significance (continued)

was in preparation. On January 2, 1875, Sarah Kent reported to her husband that she had received a letter from the firm of Wilson & Palmer (Bell family correspondence). It is conceivable that this firm included George Palmer, who organized the Holston Salt & Plaster Co. in Saltville, Smyth Co., in 1868.

20. Gayle and Look, "A Historical Survey of Metals," 15, 20. Rockwood's window sash weights may have been made locally. In a letter to her husband dated January 2, 1875, Sarah Bell mentioned that Francis had received a letter from the "Snowville factory proposing to furnish your sash weights for the new house" (Bell family correspondence). This factory was the Ammen Bill & Co. foundry in Snowville, which supplied the region with a range of cast iron articles in the 1870s. A fireback in the New Dublin Presbyterian Church manse, built near Rockwood in 1874, was cast in Snowville (Pezzoni, "New Dublin Presbyterian Church").

21. Chambers, *Lynchburg*, 229-230; Winthrop, *Cast and Wrought*, 89, 91. Another, smaller Richmond architectural ironworks of the 1870s period was the foundry of William B. Cook (Winthrop, *Cast and Wrought*, 86, 91).

22. Lyle and Simpson, *Architecture of Historic Lexington*, 51, 52; Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 89.

23. Bell, *Bells of the Valleys of Virginia*, 91, 92, 136; Drummond, Historical account of Rockwood.

24. Samuel Hays Bell V personal communication; Krueger, "Farm Structures and Equipment," 285; Cook, "Construction of Barns," 248-251.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is portrayed on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated area correspond to the present (outer) boundaries of the six parcels that comprise the historic core of the Rockwood farm.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1.1. Subject: Rockwood (same for all photos)
 2. Location: Pulaski Co., Va. (same for all photos)
 3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)
 4. Photo date: September 2004 (same for all photos)
 5. Original negative archived at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va. (same for all photos)
 6. Description of view: Rockwood house, east elevation. View looking west.
 7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
-
- 2.6. Rockwood house and smokehouse, south and west elevations. View looking northeast.
-
- 3.6. Principal stair as viewed from second-floor hall.
-
- 4.6. First-floor northeast parlor with ornamental plaster ceiling medallion and cornice.
-
- 5.6. Bull barn in foreground with dairy barn beyond. View looking north.
-
- 6.6. View looking east with Rockwood house in center distance (mostly obscured by trees), corn crib and wagon shelter on the right, springhouse in swale at center, and (from right to left on the left) shop, milking parlor wing of the dairy barn, and (beyond the milking parlor) the roof of the calf barn.